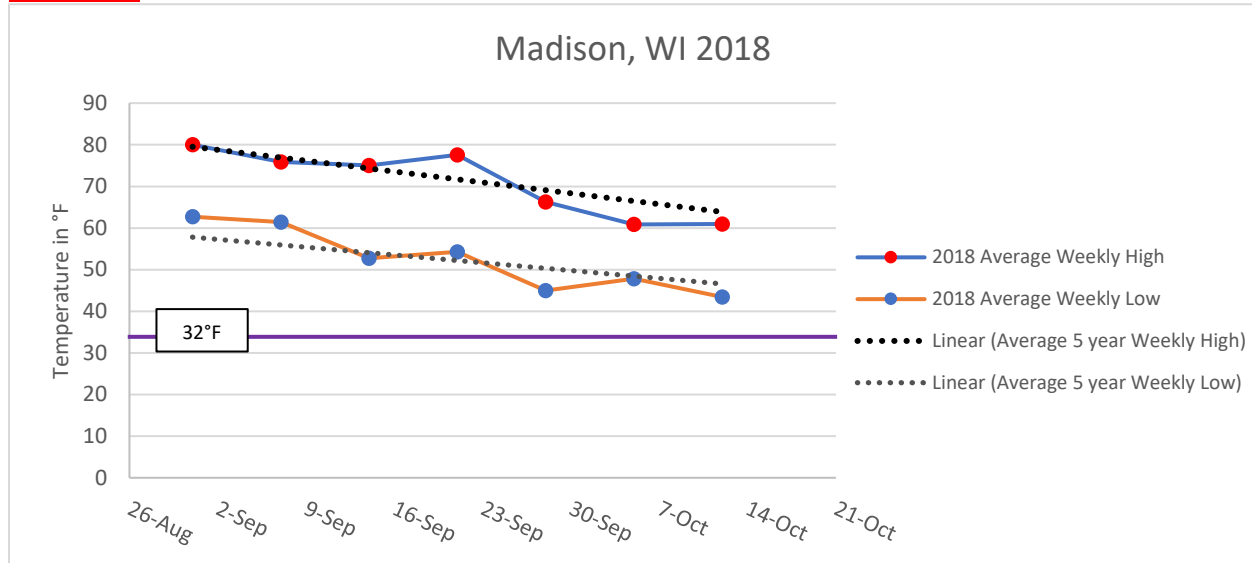


Notes From The Field *SE*

Migration Report 10/10/18

UPDATE:



Was this helpful? Let us know by taking this [3 question survey](#).

Green Lake/Marquette

We are beginning to build bird numbers in our area. Mallards, wood duck and blue-winged teal the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing mild, rainy, weather. In the next week we expect to experience similar weather. Hunter pressure in our area is similar since our last report. Water levels in our area are similar to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%.

Sheboygan/Eastern Fond du Lac

We have not started building bird numbers in our area. Mallards, wood duck and teal are the majority of the bird in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing warm/mild and rainy weather. In the next week we expect to experience cold and rainy weather. Hunter pressure in our area is lower since our last report. Water levels in our area are higher compared to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%. With more rain in the last several days, water levels continue to rise on local marshes (Sheboygan Marsh and Kiel Marsh). Water levels on local rivers and streams are high also with increasing current. Wind has pushed cattails away from Sheboygan Marsh dam making the main marsh accessible by boat from the launch; but conditions change quickly with west winds.

Dodge

We are beginning to build bird numbers in our area. Mallards, wood ducks and northern pintail have been making up the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing very variable weather. In the next week we expect to both warm/cold, rainy/sunny weather.

Hunter pressure in our area is similar to our last report. Water levels in our area are higher than our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%.

Waukesha/Walworth

We have not yet started building bird numbers in our area. Mallards and wood ducks have been making up the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing cloudy and rainy weather. In the next week we expect to experience rainy weather. Hunter pressure in our area is normal compared to a typical year. Water levels in our area are higher than our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%. Continued rain is making access by foot more challenging. Flooding in agricultural fields is attracting feeding waterfowl, which is making ducks more dispersed than normal.

Rock/Green

We are beginning to build bird numbers in our area. Mallards, wood ducks and teal have been making up the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing very variable weather. In the next week we expect to both mild/ cold, cloudy and rainy weather. Hunter pressure in our area is similar to our last report. Water levels in our area are higher than our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%. There is still a lot of high water, which is making it difficult to pattern birds. They have a lot of water to use, and along with the high hunting pressure, they seem to be moving to more secluded sites. Be patient for dropping water levels and cooler temps.

Statewide

Overall, we are beginning to build bird numbers in Wisconsin. Mallards, wood ducks, and teal are still showing to be the most abundant bird throughout the state. We are although starting to see birds starting to filter and build numbers throughout Wisconsin. Reports from across the state have shown that divers are starting to stage on Wisconsin waters.

Again, brood counts seemed average for mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and other ducks. Canada goose numbers however seem to have been affected statewide due to the late snowfall we received in April that may affected our nesting geese. Late snowstorms in April set nesting back and caused a lot of first attempt failures across the state. Water levels across the state are variable with many places being higher than normal. Wisconsin has seen almost daily rainfall starting mid-August making water levels considerably higher than normal. Wetland food across the state seems to be similar to previous years and due to the amount of rain we have received lately crop harvest may start tracking behind what it should be compared to a normal year.

Thus far this season we have had variable reports from hunter on how the season is going so far for harvest. We cannot emphasize or encourage all of you enough to spend some time and scout before your hunting trips. Waterfowl hunters in Wisconsin have shown that hunters who scout 3 times before hunting shoot three times as many birds. It will be important also to check your spots out before hunting as some spots may not be huntable due to high water.

Be safe and happy hunting!

5 Important things to know:

1. North duck zone will open one week later than in previous years, resulting in a single statewide opener for the North, South and Mississippi zones on Sept. 29;
2. Elimination of the Horicon Canada goose Management Zone (resulting in a single statewide regular goose zone);
3. Increase in the daily Canada goose bag limit to three birds per day and there is a second split in the Southern Canada goose zone resulting in a goose season that is open during the Christmas and New Year's holidays; and
4. Canada goose hunters, registration of Canada geese and in-field validation of the Canada goose hunting permit is no longer required.
5. Check out [The Basics of Waterfowl Hunting in Wisconsin](#) document on the [Waterfowl Hunting](#) webpage along with other useful tools in our Hunter resources tab for a few tips and tricks!

If you have any questions, please contact Trenton Rohrer WDNR Assistant Migratory Game Bird Ecologist send him an email or call.

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